

## From Director's Desk

### *What is the value of human life?*

A migrant worker is killed in a road accident at SKM Animal Feed company premises due to on- road poor safety system

*On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Kamothram, a 30 year old migrant - a Boiler Worker at SKM factory- from Bihar; he leaves home for his night duty; because of on- road -poor lighting and lack of speed breaker a speeding coconut oil tanker in the premises of SKM, fatally hits him, killing him on spot.*

Investigation, according to Mr Vinod, the District Officer in charge by DISH ( Department of District Industry and Safety Health), Erode, reveals that lack of adequate on – road lighting and speed breakers within the premises of SKM facility is the reason for fatal accidents, including the one that killed Kamothram.

#### **What is SKM:**

SKM Animal Feeds and Foods (India) is a limited compay; it produces feed for dairy, poultry and sheep and goats. It also produces Porna, cooking oil. It employs about thousand migrant labourers from Bihar at its Modakurichi unit. There are almost 5500 migrant labourers working in that Industry, of them almost 1000 labourers are from Bihar.

Kamothram, the native of Sampran district, Bihar was run over by a truck at the company premises of SKM Porna Oil Factory at 'Nanjai Uthukuli' in Modakurichi taluk, Erode District at 8.30pm, on Wednesday night, April 6th, 2022. He was run over by the coconut oil tanker lorry while he was going for his 2nd shift. The SKM offered to give a compensation of upto Rs Seven lakhs to deceased worker's family.

The workers were enraged and hundreds of workers went on strike as they demanded Rs 25 lakhs compensation for

the deceased worker's family. Rather than empathizing with the plight of the now deceased migrant worker sympathetically, the SKM management resorted to strong arm tactics with the complicity of the police. They refused to come to a compromise by offering sufficient compensation. With clandestine motive of precipitating a 'legal –criminal' entrapment (of offence against Police) for the striking workers, the elite management with the nexus of Police enacted an '**operation**', a drama for engendering a legal complication by inducing, triggering, 'abetting' and provoking 'violence between Police and migrant workers'.

As the ensuing pre-planned drama unfolded, beginning with well premeditated police lathi charging , under live cam, upon a peaceful assembly of striking workers, it led to workers, 'impulsively' pelting stones at police to defend themselves; then the reserve police force was called in to control the chaos; hundreds of workers got arrested with the complicity of the police, a case was registered, FIR (79/2022) against the workers under 10 sections including 147, 148, 307 and the provisions of the TNPPDL Act Based on the complaint from police inspector T Deepa.

On 7.4.2022, evening, 40 Migrants were brought in before the Judicial magistrate III and committed to Judicial custody. All are currently imprisoned at the Coimbatore Central Jail.

Now the objective of elite 'operation' was 'achieved' as striking workers are now preoccupied with fending for their bail out and the event of death of Kamothram is 'forgotten'. Who is responsible for right to health

Fr. Francis Bosco SDB, Director  
Bosco Migrant Services